REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 3 being independent. Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,862,652 (Tsuji). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a method of controlling a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit, the printing apparatus including a first control unit which controls operation of the printing apparatus, and a second control unit which can operate independently of the first control unit. The method includes an instruction generation step, an acquisition step and a control step. The instruction generation step causes the first control unit to generate an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the storage unit of the printhead, the instruction includes information designating an identification name of the specific information but not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed. The acquisition step causes the second control unit to receive the instruction generated by the first control unit in the instruction generation step, generate an address for accessing the storage unit of the printhead based on the instruction, access the storage unit at the address, and acquire the

specific information corresponding to the instruction. The control step causes the second control unit to drive and control the printhead on the basis of information which is generated on the basis of the specific information acquired in the acquisition step in order to drive the printhead. The acquisition step includes a generation step and a read step. The generation step generates an access signal containing the address corresponding to the identification name designated by the instruction generated in the instruction generation step from the storage unit. The read step accesses the storage unit in accordance with the access signal generated in the generation step and reading out the specific information. The generation step generates the access signal by looking up a table which makes identification names designated by the instruction and storage addresses of the storage unit correspond to each other.

As recited in independent Claim 3, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit. The apparatus includes instruction generation means, acquisition means and control means. The instruction generation means generates an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the printhead, the instruction including information designating an identification name of the specific information but not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed. The acquisition means receives the instruction generated by the instruction generation means, generates an address based on the instruction, accesses the storage unit of the printhead based on the address, and acquires the specific information corresponding to the instruction from the storage unit. The control

means drives and controls the printhead on the basis of information which is generated on the basis of the specific information acquired by said acquisition means in order to drive the printhead. The acquisition means includes generation means and read means. The generation means generates an access signal containing the address corresponding to the identification name designated by the instruction generated by the instruction generation means from the storage unit. The read means accesses the storage unit in accordance with the access signal generated by the generation means and reads out the specific information. The generation means has a table which makes identification names designated by the instruction and storage addresses of the storage unit correspond to each other and generates the access signal by looking up the table.

In the recording apparatus 1 of Tsuji, a memory access controlling section 3 is provided between apparatus main body controlling section 2 and non-volatile memories 4 and 5 so that the memory access controlling section 3 can execute writing to and reading from the non-volatile memories, thereby making it unnecessary for the apparatus main body controlling section to directly access the non-volatile memories. At column 14, lines 37-40, a correlationship between information numbers and addresses in a RAM where information is stored is registered in a table 26.

However, Applicants submit that in Tsuji the information and address correlating table 26 is used for copying information stored in the non-volatile memories 4 and 5 to a first RAM 17 and a second RAM 18. In comparing Tsuji with the present invention, the apparatus main body controlling section 2 and the memory access

controlling section 3 will correspond respectively to the first and second control units recited in Claim 1. In view of the communication between apparatus main body controlling section 2 and memory access controlling section 3 as is apparent from Figure 8(b), the main body control section 2 does in fact utilize address information in order to acquire information from the first RAM 17 and the second RAM 18 located in the memory access controlling section 3. This is contrary to the present invention wherein an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by (a storage unit of) a printhead includes information designating an identification name of the specific information but not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 3. Nor does Tsuji disclose or suggest generating an access signal containing an address corresponding to the identification name, with the access signal being generated by looking up a table which makes identification names and storage addresses of the storage unit correspond to each other, as is also recited in independent Claims 1 and 3.

Thus, Tsuji fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 3. Dependent Claims 2 and 5-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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